

Pak's Defence Budget

5780. PROF. ASHOK ANAND RAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan defence budget is being strengthened through the help of certain Arab countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether U.S. has stopped sending military hardwares and spares to Pakistan;

(d) whether in view of short supply from U.S. of key components, Pakistan has acquired replacement from other sources; and

(e) the implications of Mirage 2,000 acquisition by Pakistan vis-a-vis Indian Air Force.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Government have no information to this effect.

(c) Commercial sales of spare parts and similar military items have been permitted by the US Government. However, U.S. Government's military assistance to Pakistan remains suspended.

(d) Government have seen reports to this effect. Pakistan is in touch with a number of countries in Europe and South and East Asia for acquiring military supplies.

(e) No agreement has so far been concluded in this regard between Pakistan and France. However, acquisition of Mirage 2000 would enhance the multi-role capability of the Pakistan Air Force.

Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take adequate measures to safeguard it, including the operational capacities of the Indian Air Force.

Creating Employment Opportunities in the Cooperative Sector in Kerala

5781. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any project for the approval to the National Cooperative Development Corporation for creating employment opportunities in the cooperative sector in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has received two proposals from the Government of Kerala. The details of the proposals, approximate employment Potential and their present status are given in the enclosed statement.